



2nd Annual GOVERNOR'S **ROUNDTABLE** for FAMILIES and CHILDREN

Do you know?

- An effort is being made to develop a Parenting and Family Education curriculum in the **Idaho Adult Prison System**.
 - There are over 5,000 Adult Offenders/Inmates incarcerated in the Adult Prison System.
 - There are over 7,000 Adults on active supervision of Idaho Corrections System (Approximately 1,500 on Parole & 5,500 on Probation).
 - Criminals are people who are sexually active and have diverse family relations.
 - Inmates do not have Parenting or Family living skills.
- The consortium for the preparation of early childhood professionals comprised of individuals from HeadStart, the Infant Toddler Program, the state Department of Education, BSU, ISU, and the UI were successful, after three years, in passing through legislation a **Blended Early Childhood Certification Program**--birth through grade three. Graduates of these programs will have specialized training in early years. They will be prepared to work with children who are typically developing and atypically developing. This is a blending of early childhood standards and early childhood special education standards. The University of Idaho will offer not only the certificate program but also a BA degree in early childhood care and education.
- The **Center on Disabilities and Human Development** is a University Center on Excellence on the University of Idaho. The mission of the CDHD is to improve the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and those at-risk by researching and promoting best practices in the state and nation. The CDHD is one of three sister organizations funded through the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The CDHD houses 49 staff and has a statewide impact on topics such as early childhood care and education, family supports, assistive technology, positive behavioral supports for children and youth with challenging behaviors, parents with disabilities, organizational teaming, collaboration and more. We provide technical assistance to schools around best practices, support Native American community efforts, engage in statewide policy making groups, and teach course statewide in a number of topic areas.
- The biggest problem with kids is parents; the biggest success with kids is parents—any questions?
- Give children a chance to interact with senior citizens. These people will not be around for much longer and we must hear their stories and experiences so we can learn from them.
- High schools should have separate counselors for every grade. There should be a sophomore, junior, and senior counselor. I have experienced this at the middle school level and I really think that the kids need to identify with this person. The counselor can not do this if he or she is the counselor for 600 kids and that is the situation at some high schools.

- **Parents Encouraging Parents**--Online parenting classes free at www.parentingonline.org. Classes are taught by Nathalie Kretzmann, M.S., parenting and family specialist. She is Director of Parents Encouraging Parent (PEP) and is a child/adolescent counselor for Frontier Journeys, Inc. For more information or to register call 208-983-1620 or email parents_encouraging_parents@hotmail.com sponsored by Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) and Idaho Children's Trust Fund. Also can contact Patti Pratt and Carol McLean who attended Governor's Roundtable with you April 2001.
- **March of Dimes Idaho State Chapter**--Resource and educational materials on maternal and infant health and preconception. A national web site with information and resources www.modimes.org. The March of Dimes also has a Resource Center 888-MODIMES (888-663-4637) to ask questions on pregnancy health, birth defects, genetics and related topics. On a state level the March of Dimes provides most of its educational materials for free. In addition the Idaho State Chapter has a Community Grants Program (\$10,000-25,000) and Community Awards (\$100-\$1,000) to help organizations and communities implement educational projects and activities around our mission of maternal infant health and prevention of birth defects and infant mortality.
- **Camp Share**--A parenting camp held at Pocatello Women's Correctional Center for inmate moms and their children, ages 7-14.
- Did you know that the **Hispanic Cultural Center** will be breaking ground soon across the street from the Boys & Girls Club? This organization does heritage and cultural preservation through several avenues such as; the "Stay in School" Quinceanera Project with 8th Graders using prevention models in areas such as drug/alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, dropout rate, manners, hygiene, etiquette, as well as teaching them the traditional Quinceanera waltz and social graces that go along with that. For more information, contact Ana Maria Schachtell, P.O. Box 9434, Boise, ID 83707-3434 or call 208-442-0823.
- Did you know that you may access child development information and ABC's of Safe and Healthy Child Care at www2.state.id.us/phd1? Look under physical health, under child care resource center, under information for parents and providers. More information for child care providers may be found under Child Care Resource Center related links.
- Did you know in March in Region 1 more than 100 child care providers accessed training through NIC, David Lee Pesky Distance Education, the North Idaho Child Care Training Project and the Child Care Food Program?
- Idaho's public libraries have great resources for early literacy starting at birth.
- Did you know that **Mountain States Early Head Start** provides child development, health and family support services to 113 pregnant women, infants, toddlers under age three and their families in Kootenai and Bonner counties? The program has been operating for almost 3 years and is currently seeking funding for expansion to other areas in north Idaho.
 - Staff includes home visitors, a child development specialist, a registered nurse (who is a certified childbirth educator), mental health and nutrition consultants, a family resource coordinator and a child care consultant. The child care consultant works closely with community child care facilities to develop partnerships to provide child care for families needing care for their infants and toddlers. Through this partnership relationship, child care providers assess their current situation then plan with the consultant to improve ratios, curriculum, environment, health, safety, and staff development.
 - We offer an infant/toddler Child Development Credential preparation class that in the last 2 years has trained about 30 child care staff members in best practices in infant/toddler care. Parents in the program are involved in planning and monitoring the activities and budget through Policy Council, in the developmental

screening and assessment of their child, in the planning of home visits, and in development of their personal and families goals.

- For more information call 208-765-6955.
- **Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN)** is a statewide non-profit organization that works with low-income families and communities of color across Idaho on social and economic justice issues. With a strong belief in power in numbers, ICAN teaches people to use their voices through training and education. Also, ICAN has local food programs located in 16 communities across the state, providing low-cost food for low-to moderate-income families. For more information, call the toll free number at 1-866-385-9146, or in the Boise area, 208-385-9146.
- **First Steps Program**--98% of the families who have children born at Gritman Hospital receive a hospital visit before going home with the new baby (442 families in 1999) . A “Welcome Baby Bag” is filled with information that serves as a guide for parents of newborns. Included is a colorful Baby’s First Year milestone and developmental calendar, a Community Compass resource guide, Baby’s First Book and several fliers and brochures about other supportive programs, community support groups, child care services and various community resources available throughout Latah and Whitman Counties. This visit and bag is free of charge and helps get parents off to a good start by providing information parenting classes, support groups, child care ideas, SIDS, the Ages and Stages and Baby Track Immunization Programs.
 - The volunteer who visits these families prior to discharge explains the packet contents and signs parents up for continued contact with First Steps volunteers for support during the first 3 months (and longer if requested).
 - As a result of this service, 248 families signed up for phone follow-ups, 416 families were enrolled in the Ages and Stages developmental screening and education program and 344 families signed up for Baby Track Immunization reminders.
 - The net result is more families who are supported and educated, more kids who are getting early intervention for developmental delays, and more Idaho children getting immunized.
- As a result of the **Young Children and Families Programs (YCF)**:
 - There has been a 36% decrease in the incidents of child abuse and neglect in Latah County. There were no valid/verifiable incidents of child abuse or neglect among families participating in First Steps.
 - The number of children receiving developmental screenings has increased 250%.
 - Immunization compliance has increased, supporting research from the Health Department that children who receive their 2 month immunizations on time are twice as likely to complete the entire series on time.
- **Idaho Public Television** is the only entity in the state teaching media literacy to parents and child care professionals? Free workshops focus on topics ranging from the impact (both good and bad) on children.
- **Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc.** is a statewide non-profit organization that provides training and technical assistance to parents of children with disabilities. Through our Parent Education and Resource Center, seven regional coordinators located across the state provide free workshops, one-to-one technical assistance and information to parents, professionals and interested others who work with children with special needs. If you would like more information please call our Boise office at 1-800-242-4785 (IPUL).
- Did you know that the Department of Health and Welfare, The Department of Juvenile Corrections, and four counties in North Idaho have collaborated on a model of intensive community-based services, called the **Community Web**? This program is contracted through each participating county, the services are provided by the Idaho Youth Ranch who have practitioners in each of the four counties. The family

practitioners provide 24/7 coverage to families who are referred through county probation officers.

- This program restores the parental role in these families, and has resulted in the following outcomes: Reduced recitivism, improvement in school attendance, successful restitution and procurement of employment.
- This program also reduces the incidence of placement in institutional care, such as in the State Correctional facilities. Families are worked with over a period of 4 months and the family service practitioners are available to the families when they are needed, during crisis or at times when interventions are critical.
- This program is funded currently with TANF funds and needs long term funding for continuation. It is modeled after a nationally recognized program, MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY, one of the premier programs that carry the distinction, "Programs That Work."
- For more information on this program, contact, Rob Gregory, Region I, FACS Program Manager, 208-772-2633, or Bob Ball or Mike Jones, with the Idaho Youth Ranch, Boise.
- **American Center For Educational Opportunities Inc.**, a nonprofit organization that develops projects for children and families in rural Idaho. Supports Children Health and Safety Fairs for children and families in rural SW Idaho. Special Events: Free immunization for infants and toddlers; Fire Safety, Bike Safety, Drug Awareness, Developmental Health Screening, Fingerprinting--After School
- **CARE for KIDS** is a grassroots initiative that is seeing successful, quantitative and qualitative results in north central Idaho by "empowering the very best in child care practices, ensuring positive outcomes for Idaho's children, including those with disabilities." CARE for KIDS is made up of Community Action Agency's Child Care Resource and Referral, more than 50 community businesses, IDHW's Developmental Disabilities Program, AmeriCorps and other community champions.
 - EQUIP--Mobile learning vans that carry toys, equipment, curriculum and materials to rural child care providers;
 - TRAIN--Local, professional trainers climb on board with AmeriCorps members. The professionals provided on-site training to providers while the AmeriCorps members work with the children and check out the equipment for monthly loan-out; and
 - MODELS--Best practice learning labs in each rural community, providing models of excellence to child care providers and community members to tour. The Lewiston learning lab is housed in Region 2's DDP facility and serves community children along with DDP enrolled children.
 - CONTACTS--Lisa Horan 208-746-3351, Dale Hasenoehrl 208-799-3460.
- A new **Success by 6 Initiative** is beginning in Latah County. We have received funding from the Bank of America to plan a Family Resource Center that will be housed in the 1912 Building. This is a collaborative effort between United Way, Parents as Teachers, Even Start, the University of Idaho, the Young Children and Families Project at Gritman Medical Center and the Palouse Discovery Science Center. Contact person: Nancy Deringer 208-885-3559
- The **University of Idaho Parents as Teachers** project at the Center on Disabilities and Human Development is currently serving 86 families and over 120 children throughout Latah County. We are including more than home visits and monthly group meetings. We are holding weekly, age specific (birth-6 months, 6-14 months, 14-24 months) intergenerational support groups at a local retirement facility. Contact person: Nancy Deringer 208-884-3559
- The **University of Idaho Even Start Family Literacy Program** at the Center on Disabilities and Human Development supports families with literacy needs. To be eligible, the adult must have GED/ABE/or ESL needs and have a child 0-8. Our goals

are to break the cycle of illiteracy and promote self-sufficiency through offering intensive family literacy services. We are now placing computers in families' homes so that they can learn in a risk-free environment and gain essential employability skills (through intensity) as well as have an opportunity to have an interactive parent and child together time. Currently we are supporting 24 families. We have incorporated parent educators (7), U of I and WSU interns (8) and financial aid work study students (35) to support this program. Contact person: Nancy Deringer

- The **University of Idaho America Reads** project currently uses 22 U of I work-study students as tutors in area elementary schools. This program is sponsored by the U of I's Center on Disabilities and Human Development's Even Start Program. Contact person: Nancy Deringer 208-885-3559.
- The **Whitepine Early Childhood Community Learning Center** in Bovill is currently becoming NAEYC accredited! Families receive preschool services, child development (Parents as Teachers) information, and monthly family nights. It is located in a modular classroom next to the elementary school. Contacts: Pat Eck 208-826-3314, and Nancy Deringer 208-885-3559.
- **Attendance Court:**
 - Trauncy had become a big problem for School District 411 and the Juvenile Justice system. A large number of kids were not getting the education they should have and also a large number of kids were getting in trouble and at a younger age.
 - An idea of Judge Jack Varin became a program because of a joint effort by the school district, Department of H&W and the Juvenile Justice System.
 - In April of 1998 the first trial court was held. Since then many more have been held in the elementary schools.
 - This court is family based/family friendly and held in a different elementary school each time. A review hearing is held 60 days later.
 - This is a formal court proceeding in a school setting with a judge in a robe, court clerk, attorneys acting as prosecuting and public defenders, principal/vice and the school Community Resource Social Worker.
 - Goal of this court is to identify why a child is missing school and offer help and services.
 - Does it work? YES IT DOES. For more information contact the Attendance Court Coordinator, Donna Stalley at stalleydo@tfsd.k12.id.us, 208-733-1321.
 - Several other areas are now doing or starting similar courts.
- Meridian is beginning to form teams as well as in Boise through a grassroots organization called **Stand for Children**. This organization is motivated to effect change for children on a local community involvement through highly organized efforts creating a strong voice for children in our communities. Check out the web site at stand.org or contact Sherry Belknap at 208-887-6357 for local contact information. Join us and lets start making a difference for children in Meridian and Boise!
- **Idaho Immunize By Two Coalition--Statewide Coalition:** Collaboration of healthcare agencies, private businesses, the State Immunization Program, the Governor's Office, health districts, community health centers and private citizens who advocate for childhood immunizations--birth to 2 years old. This is the most critical time for a child to receive shots for vaccine-preventable disease that is often life threatening. The Coalition is directed by a Steering Committee that is made up of representatives from each of our workgroups:
 - Parent Education, Provider Education, Advocacy and Legislation, and Registry.
 - We now have a web site! Log on and let us give you a hand with your immunization questions. www.immunizebytwo.org
 - Contact Christina Helmig at 208-345-3173 with any questions or comments.
- The **Idaho Migrant Council's Salud Y Provecho** program has a Community Resource Center that is open for youth and parents to access the Internet, receive

assistance with homework, understand school expectations, and learn about community resources. The Center has ongoing parenting classes that are free of charge, and a lending library with Spanish language books. This is all possible through the efforts of community collaboration. The Center provides all of its programs in Spanish and English. For information call Gloria at 208-454-8632 or e-mail at gloriat@micron.net

- **The Salvation Army, Nampa**, is a church organization helping families and children. We have several programs, such as our: Youth Center, Family Shelter, Day Resource Center, Jobs Training.
 - Our Youth Center is an after-school center that is open from 3–8 pm. Our primary population is elementary youth, but as funding has become available we are opening the center to teens for mentoring and also a homework club.
 - Our facility has a full gym, game room (pool, video games, air hockey), computer lab, rock wall, Homework Club, and much more.
 - Our part-time social worker leads classes for kids dealing with divorce, and parenting classes are housed at our facility for pregnant teens and parents already at work.
 - For more information about programs, contact Amy Parsons, Youth Center Director at 208-467-6586. Questions for other programs can be directed to this same number.